

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

RAMIREZ CANYON PARK
5750 RAMIREZ CANYON ROAD
MALIBU, CALIFORNIA 90265
PHONE (310) 589-3200
FAX (310) 589-3207



MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING
of the
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
and the
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 27, 2007

1. Call to order.

The 324th joint meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Conservancy Chairperson Elizabeth Cheadle at 7:30 p.m. on August 27, 2007 at the Temescal Canyon Conference and Retreat Center, 15601 Sunset Boulevard, Pacific Palisades.

2. Roll Call of Conservancy.

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: Antonio Gonzales, Woody Smeck, Elva Yañez, Jerome C. Daniel, Linda Parks, Bryan Cash, and Elizabeth Cheadle, Chairperson. Quorum present. The following members were absent: James Berkus, and Ronald Schafer, Vice Chairperson.

3. Roll Call of Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Mark Johnson, Alan Kishbaugh, Lawren Markle, John McCord, Linda Palmer, Barry Read, Wendy-Sue Rosen, Nancy Stephens, Marc Stirdivant, Sara Wan, Timothy Wendler, Garen Yegparian, George Lange, Vice Chairperson, and Don Robinson, Chairperson. Quorum present. The following members were absent: Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Caroline Brown, Richard Gould, William Koehler, Mary Sue Maurer, Roseann Mikos, Paul Rockenstein, Dennis Seider, and Liane Weintraub. The following members were present subsequent to roll call: Dave Brown and Michael Cacciotti.

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director; Laurie Collins, Chief Staff Counsel; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Walt Young, Deputy Executive Officer; Amy Lethbridge, Chief of Interpretation; Dan Tholund, Chief of Facilities and Maintenance; Jeff Jones, Assistant Financial Officer; James Yeramian, Board Secretary, and Monica Costello, Executive Assistant.

4. Introduction of Legislative Participants or their staff.

The Chair announced that the following legislative participants were present: Louise Rishoff Steve Veres, and Henry Lo.

5. Approval of minutes.

The minutes of July 9, 2007 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of July 9, 2007 were approved as amended.

6. Reports.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from the Chair; Mr. Smeck, representing the National Park Service; the Executive Director, and Michael Berger, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and Amy Lethbridge.

7. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

8. Comments from members of the public on items not on the agenda and public testimony on all agenda items.

The following person addressed the Conservancy:

Richard Toyon, representing VOICE on item 9(c).
Sharon Hales, representing the Verdugo Hills Golf Course Committee, on item 9(c).
Bill Weisman, representing Crescenta Valley Heritage, on item 9(c).
Sharon Weisman, member of the public, on item 9(c).
Mike Lawler, representing the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley, on item 9(c).
Karen Zimmerman, representing the Verdugo Hills Golf Course Committee, on item 9(c).
Elaine Brown, representing Commerce Owners and Business Restoration Association, on item 9(c).
Mary Benson, representing Los Angeles Trails Project, on items 9(b) and 9(c).
Grace Andrus, representing Crescenta Valley Town Council, on item 9(c).
Krista Smiley, representing Crescenta Valley Town Council, on item 9(c).
Nena Royal, member of public, on item 9(c)
Joan Luchs, representing the Hillside Federation, on item 11.
Fran Bibian, member of the public, on items not on the agenda.

9. Consent Calendar:

- (a) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on the Notice of Preparation for the New Leaf Homes Draft Environmental Impact Report, SCH No. 2007071145, Mount Olympus, Laurel Canyon.**
- (b) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Los Angeles County on the Draft General Plan and related documents.**
- (c) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles regarding proposed residential development of the 58-acre Verdugo Hills Golf Course property, 6435 La Tuna Canyon Road, Tujunga.**

All items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

- 9(a). Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on the Notice of Preparation for the New Leaf Homes Draft Environmental Impact Report, SCH No. 2007071145, Mount Olympus, Laurel Canyon.**

Comments were made by Mr. Kishbaugh.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-68.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-68.

- 9(b.) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Los Angeles County on the Draft General Plan and related documents.**

Comments were made by Mr. Brown and Ms. Wan.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Read, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-69.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Smeck, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-69.

- 9(c). Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles regarding proposed residential development of the 58-acre Verdugo Hills Golf Course property, 6435 La Tuna Canyon Road, Tujunga.**

Comments were made by Messrs. Gonzales, Stirdivant, Markle, Yegarian, Ms. Wan, and the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Read, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-70.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Gonzales, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-70.

- 10. Presentation by Rosi Dagit, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, on Western Pond Turtles in the Santa Monica Mountains.**

Comments were made by Rosi Dagit.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Yegparian, Ms. Skei, Ms. Wan, and Ms. Palmer.

Comments were made by the Chair.

- 11. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on the Notice of Preparation for the Universal City Vision Plan, ENV 2007-0254 EIR, Cahuenga Pass.**

This item was postponed to a later date.

- 12. Consideration of resolution authorizing a Conservancy Fund grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to assist the National Park Service's study of anticoagulant poisoning effects on wildlife in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and adjacent parkland.**

Questions were propounded by Messrs. Brown, Markle, Ms. Wan, and Ms. Parks.

Comments were made by Mr. Ray Savijot, representing the National Park Service.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Rosen, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-72.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-72.

Mr. Smeck was noted as abstaining.

The Chair announced that item 17 would be heard next.

17. Consideration of resolution approving the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority FY 2007-08 final budget.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Parks and Mr. Cash.

Comments were made by the Assistant Financial Officer.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Read, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-77.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-77.

13. Consideration of resolution authorizing the addition of Coastal Slope Trail properties in Ramirez, Escondido and Latigo Canyons to the Conservancy Acquisition Workprogram, Malibu.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Brown.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Brown, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-73.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-73.

- 14. Consideration of resolution authorizing the exchange of easements from the Conservancy's Escondido Canyon Park (APN 4460-003-901) and APN 4460-014-006 to provide for a section of the Coastal Slope Trail in Escondido Canyon, Malibu.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Palmer, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-74.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-74.

- 15. Consideration of resolution authorizing an appeal of the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works' approval of "B" permits for Tract No. 35022 and related projects, Elephant Hill, El Sereno.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cacciotti, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-75.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Gonzales, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-75.

Ms. Yañez was noted as recusing herself from this item.

- 16. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire approximately 24 acres (APNs 4467-002-042-044 and 060), unincorporated Malibu area.**

This item was heard in closed session.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Rosen, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-76.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Wan, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-76.

- 18. Closed Session: (The Conservancy may hold a closed session on the following items pursuant to Section 11126 Subdivision (c)(7)(A), Section 11126.3(a), and Section 11126 Subdivision (e) of the Government Code. Confidential memoranda related to the following items may be considered during such closed session discussions.) Discussion and possible action regarding pending and/or potential litigation: Pending litigation – *Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, et al.*; *Robings v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*, and *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy v. City of Malibu*, and related actions, Potential litigation: *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy v. Seven Arrows/Little Dolphins by the Sea*.**

The Chair a Closed Session at 9:55 p.m. to discuss item 16.

The Chair reconvened the Open Session at 10:20 p.m. and announced that item 16 was discussed.

19. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chair announced that the next meeting would be held on September 24, 2007.

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP
Executive Director

ELIZABETH A. CHEADLE
Chairperson